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Editorial Notes and Comment

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HOME MISSION NOTES.

Assembly's Home Missions is one of the greatest enterprises undertaken by the Presbyterian Church. In the magnitude of the work itself, in the greatness of the need compassed and in the number of missionaries employed it is second in importance to nothing that claims the attention or that appeals to the generosity of God's people.

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November is the month assigned by the General Assembly to the aggressive work of evangelizing our own destitute sections and of meeting the spiritual needs of our most dependent classes. If the Church proposes to hear the cry of the mountaineer, the frontiersman, the prisoner, the negro, the Indian and the foreigner, it can give practical expression to its sympathies by a liberal offering during this month. There will be no other opportunity during the present ecclesiastical year. If you wish to help save the lost at our own door, do it now.

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The Permanent Committee of Systematic Benevolence, appointed by the General Assembly to consider the claims of all the causes of the Church has for five years recommended and the Assembly has adopted and endorsed definite amounts according to its judgment, of the needs of each cause. It has been urging churches and pastors to put into action the new scheme of benevolence, whereby the program of the Church is followed in undertaking to carry on all phases of Assembly benevolences as one work. After providing for local needs the Assembly asks 54 per cent. of its total benevolences for Foreign Missions and 27 per cent. for Assembly Home Missions, which is equivalent to asking proportionate giving, or half as much for Assembly Home Missions, and specially urges that this 27 per cent. be not divided with other Home Mission operations in local spheres.

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The noble women of the Virginia Synodical being asked to double their gifts this year to Foreign Missions, decided that they could not make any distinction among needy claims, but calls upon its societies to double their gifts to all the causes. Will the whole Church accept this challenge of the Christian women and double their offerings to the cause of missions?

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Up to October 1st, during the first six months of the year, the work has cost the Executive Committee of Home Missions in round numbers \$24,000.00 more than its receipts. Adding the \$13,000.00 of debt accumulated during the past two years, the committee is in debt about \$37,000.00. Will the Church allow this noble work to be handicapped and throttled by this accumulating indebtedness? If we are to help in this noble cause, now is the time.

INASMUCH as it requires all the regular contributions of the Church to Assembly Home Missions for payment of the meager salaries of the hard-worked and self-denying missionaries, the Assembly calls upon its churches to allow voluntary offerings during Home Mission Week, November 19th-26th for the better equipment of its mission fields. Only the voluntary offerings of Home Mission Week will be available for the purpose of repairing or erecting new buildings, where the missionaries can conserve the results of faithful labors. Do you want a part in this work of providing suitable buildings?

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A STATED CLERK who has faithfully filled his office to the entire satisfaction of a Synod for a period of forty-six years without missing a single meeting is, we believe, a unique experience in the Presbyterian Church of America. This is the record made by Rev. James Power Smith, D. D., as stated clerk of the Synod of Virginia. No man ever filled such an office with greater courtesy, geniality, care and ability than he. There was a very general feeling of regret and, we may say of sadness, in the Synod when it was found that Dr. Smith would not be in his usual place. And the sympathy of every member of Synod went out to him when he knew that the stated clerk was absent because there had come to him one of the greatest afflictions that can come to a servant of God. A message of loving sympathy was sent him by the Synod, and the earnest prayer is that he may be spared many years to fill the office which he has occupied so well and so long.

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DR. W. W. MOORE, in speaking of Union Seminary, told an incident connected with the Lexington church, in which the Synod of Virginia was meeting. A call for help for the Seminary was presented to the Session of the church during the pastorate of Dr. W. S. White in ante-bellum days. This was the third call that had come to the church for this cause in a very short time. Some members of the Session felt that they could give no more and did not believe the church could give more. One of their number, Mr. John B. Lyle, said that he intended to give and give double as much as he had given before. His pastor, knowing that he was a man of very limited means, asked how he could raise that much money. He said he would do it by making and selling fly brushes, and said that there were a plenty of peacocks in the Timber Ridge neighborhood and that he would gather up their tail feathers, and use them for this purpose. He did it, doubled his contribution, and under his inspiration the church doubled its gifts. We are wondering if there are not some things in which people take as much pride as

the peacock does in his tail, that could be sacrificed for this or some other branch of the Lord's work. Suppose each member of the Church would give as long and as much as he can, and then should go to work to make more money for the Lord's work. If this were done there would be no need for the constant calls that come for more money to fulfil the Church's commission to evangelize the world.

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SUNNY SIDE HOME is the name that has been chosen by the Synod of Virginia for its proposed home for aged people. Could there be a more appropriate name for such a home? Sometimes we hear it said that people, as they get older, are on the shady side of life; that for them the sun is going down. Is this true of the Christian? As the years go by and the journey of life lengthens out, they are shortening the distance before them, they are drawing nearer to the heavenly city. The light from the new Jerusalem falls brighter and brighter upon them, and they see visions which did not appear to them in their younger days. So far as their spiritual life is concerned, in most cases the sun shines brighter as it nears the western horizon. Or it is more like the brightness of the morning star, which only loses its brightness in the more glorious light of day. But sometimes there is a dark side to this bodily life. Some, who have been strong and able to provide for themselves, have become weak. Some, who have lived in comfort, have lost their all. Some, who have had loved ones to provide for them, have been left alone. The fathers and mothers in Israel ought to be taken care of, and yet less provision is made for them than for almost any other class of needy ones. It ought to be the privilege and the joy, as it is the duty of the Church, to take care of them. Every Synod ought to have its Sunny Side Home.

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LEXINGTON is truly a center of culture. The Synod of Virginia presents a splendid study in character. What a blend of royal manhood must emerge when the youth, endowed with a vision from these splendid mountain institutions, goes forth toned to the harmonies of supernatural manhood. Culture and character must go hand in hand. Is the Church and the State willing to witness the development of either at the expense of the other? Is either doing to-day what it might to so co-ordinate its respective and exclusive sphere of effort that the rising generation shall wed culture with character? Is the man of knowledge to be the man of God?

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CONFUCIUS said: "The man who knows the truth is not so great as the man who loves the truth." It may be added that greater still is the man who lives the truth.